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Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's telephone call to Applicant's undersigned representative, in which the Examiner informed Applicant that the version of the claims attached to Applicant's response filed October 31, 2005 did not accurately reflect the amendments made to the claims on April 11, 2005. Applicant is submitting this substitute response to correct this inadvertent error, and to make a further amendment to claim 95.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to "said annular flange" in claim 95, applicant has herein amended claim 95 to depend from claim 94, and notes that antecedent for an "annular flange" appears in claim 94 at line 3.

Applicant disagrees with the grounds of rejection over prior art stated in the Examiner's Final Action dated June 29, 2005.

Regarding these prior art rejections, the present claims relate to a syringe holder for a front-loading injector and to a method of front loading a syringe to such an injector. The Examiner's rejection, however, is based upon a patent showing a rear-loading injector. Thus, the rejection is unsound.

The Examiner's Office Action cites the Goethel patent, 4,695,271, as anticipating all claims. The Examiner does not cite to particular portions of the Goethel patent, however, Applicant notes that a rear-loading injector is clearly shown in the Goethel patent. Specifically, the injector has a pressure jacket extending from a face plate that is hingedly attached to the

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injector. A syringe is loaded into this jacket from the rear, by opening the face plate as seen in Fig. 4, inserting the tip (outboard end) of the syringe into the pressure sleeve, and then closing the face plate. The pressure sleeve has a enclosed front end with a small aperture sized for the syringe tip to pass through. The syringe's position inside of the pressure sleeve is seen in Fig. 5.

A few observations can be made on the injector of the Goethel patent. First, the syringe is held in place by the pressure sleeve's closed front end. The pressure sleeve has a generally smooth cylindrical interior bore that does not have notable features. This contrasts with the recitations of independent claims 90 and 93, which include a syringe holder for a "front loadable injector" that has an "open front end for insertion of the syringe into the bore and removal of the syringe from the bore", and "an internal annular recess in communication with [the] bore ... for receiving and retaining connecting structure of a syringe." Nothing in Goethel suggests features in the interior of the pressure jacket for holding a syringe, nor an open front end in the pressure jacket for receiving the syringe from the front.

The dependent claims now presented further distinguish the Goethel patent, e.g. in reciting a syringe having a "radially outwardly extending flange ... in engagement with [engagable to] said internal annular recess" in claims 92 and 97. However, given the clear allowability of the independent claims, such further distinctions need not be reviewed in greater detail here.

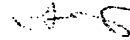
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Respectfully submitted,



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